you acknowledge allegiance, if not to to King George!"

"To God; To the chosen rulers of the people! To my country! exclaimed Aurora, in an impassioned tone., while her eyes, ordinarily so soft in their expression seemed to flash lightnin; from beneath their long lashes.

The captain started as if thunder Biruck, but had the tact to smother his loyal indignation, as he muttered "There will be little hope for th success of our arms, if all the ladie are like you, Miss Maxwell. Excuse the introduction of a subject, which, iwe cannot agree, t will take car henceforth not to bring up on the car

"Thanks," replied Aurora, and th flush left her cheeks, which bloome like a fresh-plucked rose. The deli ac of the captain had been profound appreciated, and he felt that at las he saw one whose bewitching charm were heightened by the possession of a soul capable of true feeling.

Mr. Maxwell entered at this mo ment, and was delighted to witnes. the apparent cordiality between hi guest and his niece. "It is deligh fu weather," he remarked, "and I thin! you young people would enjoy a ride "I should be delighted to accom pany Miss Maxwell," shid the captain with a courteque, bow.

"Let us wait until to morrow," re plied Aurora, "and visit the Tallulat falls.

"By all means," said the captain. have often heard of that wonder o' nature, and shall be delighted to accompany Miss Maxwell," "As you just now remarked," said

she, with an arch smife; "to-morrow. then, we will have an early dinner and start. It is the most agreeable time of day for a ride."

'I shall await your orders," replied the captain; "and now, if you will excuse me, I will tell Sergeant Halbert to see that my horse is acady for the carter. These rough paths render is necessary to have the animal's feet

in good order." "Certainly," remarked Mr. Maxwell. "and remember that we have a good smith here at the 'Stronghold.'

Strolling towards the stable, the cap tain found his faithful adherent busily . engaged in cleaning his holster pisto's. Rising as the officer approached, he saluted him by raising his right hand to, his cap, and then stood motionless. 'Ab, sergeant, getting ready fdr action?

Think it's time!! bend any dangers; "Whigs around!"

"Pshaw! Why man, there is not a whig within a hundred miles of here.' "Glad to hear it, sir!"

"Yes and in a day or two you will see a hundred or two of the loyal inhabitants here, well armed, and ready to combat the saucy North Carolinlans."

"Hope to see them, sir." "You will, sergeant, and what a deal of drilling you will have to do. It will not answer to be too severe, however Be decided, but not harsh in your movements."

"Don't think I will, s'r." laconically responded the sergeant, whose countenance wore a curious expression of

"Well, and now I think of it, look at Selim's feet, I shall want him at the door to-morrow at one o'clock, for a ride."

"And me, sir?"

"No, no! You remain here, though you may keep your ears open, and if you hear anything out of the way, re port it."

"Humph" muttered the veteran after his commander had left. "He had better keep his eyes open. Never inind. His pistols sha'n't miss fire.

That evening and the next morning

Captain Trevor was almost constant ly at Aurora's side. The more be conversed with her, the more he found influence would protect him, and so to admire. It was evident that, al. they pursued their journey. though reared in the wilds, her education was of a refined order, tempered | was the spot where her interview with by commanding powers of thought. Lydston had been overheard, and on lofty impulses, and above all, the turning around a large rock she saw. vivifying ladyhood of nature in her to her astonishmen -Rupert Loudon. purest aspect. True, she was bitterly 'Yes, the young offi er, haunted by a opposed to the British government, desire to revisit the spot where he but her very opposition had a charm had last seen her, had found his way for him, who had hitherto looked upon thither with the aid of a guide, who her sex as mere puppets. Perhaps he was now at Danforth's house. Abmight ask her to wear the Fitnhowe sorbed in thought, he did not hear the coronet, and of course she would be hor es as they came along on the proud to accept that honor, tinged as green sward at either side of the narshe was with rebellious thoughts, Lit. row path. Starting to his feet, he saw

listening to his pleasant discourse. "Now, captain," exclaimed Aurora, in well-known uniform of England, he a gay tone as she entered the library. "I am equipped for the ride, and as the horses are at the door, suppose we

him in her heart, even when she was

start." "With pleasure!"

The captain's chestnut charger, "Selim," stood motionless before the door. Sergeant Halbert standing at his shoulder to hold the stirrups, Aurora's horse was a black thorough-bred, who pawed the ground with impatience until his mistress had vaulted into her saddle, when the noble animal stood motionless, his neck curved, and his small ears pointed forward. She wore a closely fitting short riding dress ever her long skirt, and a broad hat with a waving plume.

'Return before dark," said Mr. Maxwell, as they left the house.

"Certainly, uncle," replied Aurora. while the captain bowed assent. "Had better," growled the sergeant.

parent edges glistening like burnished gold, through which gleamed the bright rays of the god of day.

In narrating the escape of Rupert Loudon from the "Stronghold." have already described the path traversed by the equestrians, who chatted pleasantly as they rode along. The captain was unusually brilliant, carefully shunning political topics, and Aurora had evidently determined to make the time pass pleasantly. The young officer, who had been insensible to the charms of many a city belie, now bowed in admiration before this rustic beauty-not merely in fancy, but with that deep passion which hearts sobered by the discipline of life are alone capable of.

"Are we not far enough from the 'Stronghold,' to recall Mr. Maxwell's caution " at length remarked Captain Trevor, as they let their horses walk up a slight eminence.

"What?" merrily replied Aurora, "are you already tired of my society? Really, I did not expect that-

"Spare me-spare me." interrupted the capta'n. "I would willingly ride to the world's end in such pleasant society, but-"

"But!" interrupted Aurora in her turn. "But is called by you gentlemen 'a woman's word,' yet your sex, if I mistake not, are fondest of using

"Nay, Miss Maxwell, hear me. I only feared that if we outs ayed our time, your uncle might not be disposed to le! us ride again-a happiness that I trust often to enjoy."

"And which you have no desire to prolong. But let us retrace our steps, although, if my old nurse knew this, she would be sadly disappointed.

"I beg of you to go on, especially if you wish to see any one. "Well, then, to speak frankly, I would like to proceed about half a mile further, that I may visit a nurse of mine who lives there. That is, if it is not disagreeable to Captain Tre-

"Captain Trever will ever find it agreeable to escort Miss Maxwellthrough life, if she chooses so to rendezvous with a whig officer, for I

Aurora colored.

an almost inexpressible shade of sar- go-between." easm in her tone, "that no country more beauliful forest ride than this."

The remark was made with such felt almost inclined to be provoked at or two he replied: Beautiful-wildly picturesque as

this scene is, I almost feel inclined to prefer one with which I am familiar." 'And where is that, pray?"

"It is a large park, around a Nor-Hundreds of acres are covered with a claimed: smooth carnet of grass, and shaded by through whose gnarled boughs come the sunlight. This scene surpasses it in picturesque grandeur, but that, in to make it dearer to me than all the world besides"

"And what is that, captain?" "The park is that of my father, Miss Maxwell, but it lacks-'

"Some loyal demoiselle," interrapted Aurora, "who will reflect no dis- biffeer rode up, and asked credit upon the titled occupants of the castle, and will puppet-like play her the honor of address?" part in the pageant of royalty. Come. let us have a race. Which will reach the summit of vonder bill first?" There was a malicious sparkle of

triumph in Aurora's eyes, as she ur her horse into a canter, followed her discomfited cavalier, who was edently somewhat abashed. With indicated goal until some momafter his competitor was there, Selim was rather famed for pov than speed.

"I acknowledge myself beaten," his frank remark as he reached rora's side, "but I give you fair no

that I shall not leave the field." "To be unsuccessful?" asked Aur

"I hope not." At this moment a distant noise ' distinctly upon the ears of the equ

"Tell me," asked the captain, that the booting of an owl?"

"It sounds like it," was the r but as she spoke, Aurora bent head, and a crimson hue suffused h cheeks. She recognized the wolknown cry of the Sharpshooters, and feared for a moment that her companion might get into trouble. Bu on reflection, she felt assured that her

A hundred yards furthr beyond,

4le knew the titled scion of nobility her who had taken entire possession

with what contempt Aurora regarded of his heart. "Miss Maxwell!" he exclaimed. Then, seeing her companion, in the

> drew himself proudly up at the side of his horse, and raised his cap with

unexpected sight of Rupert made Au- the 'bait' I brought him, and now, to in? rora almost reel in her saddle but it was conclude, I have an idea of marrying but for a second. Her quick percep- his preity daughter." tion taught her that she had perhaps endangered the life of one in whom thin Foster, who was one of the few she felt an indescribable interest, and British officers who had won his rank without hesitation she rode up to ku- at the point of his sword. Without pert, extending her hand.

are well. Let me introduce you to ever there was danger to be combated, Capt. Trevor, of the king's officers, a company of unwilling recruits to be who is my unarmed escort."

other, with a forced smile, for the first that presented itself to his comeyes of either sparkled defiance. Cap | manders. tain Trevor saw at a glance that Rupert was a continental officer, and his Trevor to his companion's half bantersword and pistols made him at once ing remark. "She is an angel, and I The day was one of sunlight and a formidable opponent, even if there hope Tariton will not order me away glory. The face of nature beamed were no band in ambush or within until she surrenders at discretion. with floral smiles, and the thick foli- call. But what was the most galling 'Gad, I think I will resign then, and age of the forest waved in the gentle to his proud spirit was a sudden con-

Nor was Rupert less annoyed. He attributed the slight agitation, the changing color, and the half averted eyes of Aurora to her being discovered with her companion. Neither could be but think that Captain Trevor was the affianced lover of whom he had heard her speak, at that very

"Gentlemen," said Aurora, in a sweet, soft voice, that thrilled through the heart of each listener, as he drank in every tone, "you are arrayed under different flags, but do not carry your feuds into private life. Captain Trevor, you will excuse me for an instant, while I say a few words to Mr. Rupert."

"Certainly," replied the captain. fixing a searching gaze upon her, as she rode up to Rupert's side. "Major Loudon, she said, in a low

tone, "I thought you were at the camp. Where is Mr. Danforth?" "Gone." was the laconic response. for Rupert could not unfathom the conduct of her whom he recognized as sovereign of his affections-neither saw he the propriety of submitting to this examination from one thus the

companion of an enemy." "Say, then, to Lydston, that I will see him to-morrow, here," then raising her voice she continued: "I should like to see her to-day, but cannot. Good afternoon, sir. Now, Captain

astonishment they had turned their steeds, and rode back the way in which they had come.

The captain was, if possible, more mystified, but not a word was exchanged until the approached the exclaimed:

"Miss Maxwell!"

agreeable one." "Quite so."

"Stop, sir!" exclaimed Aurora, which you have visited can show a checking her horse and drawing herself up in her saddle until she was the impersonification of queenly beauty. self-possession, that Captain Trevor "I assure, Captain Trevor, upon my honor, that I have but a slight ac- they? her indifference, but thought it best quaintance with the gentleman we to remain silent. Selim received a met so accidentally. Yes, you may thrust of his spurs, and in a moment | smile, but this meeting was accidental, and I regret it."

"Excuse me," stammered the captain, "for I feel that I wronged you, but-

Her his attention was arrested by

"Those are British notes. I feared old oaks monarchs of the forest, at first that your acquaintance might have managed to get here by a shorter route, and occupy the house."

"You who were in his power should Its quiet majesty, only lacks one thing not speak thus of him. But you were corret in your conjectures, for see, here come the red-coats."

and as Captain Trevor approached. they were thrown into line. Bringing his men to a salute, the commanding "Is this Captain Trevor that I have

tain, reining in his horse,

might be in danger from an organizabut learning from him that you were in the woods without escort, I determined to join you."

freshments for the officers were prepared in the dining-room. After par- critical voice: taking of them. Captain Trevor invied the commander of the dragoons to right to speak as I did. I admit your his chamber, leaving the Heutenants superfority, but nevertheless, cannot

to finish the bottles. Rupert, meanwhile, had re-joined his guide at Mrs. Danforth's, and when this lovely girl is about to enslowly returned to the camp. He rich me with her fortune?" found the adjutant much better, although he seemed extremely taciturn.

Sergeant Danforth was away "on a ra, retired to his couch.

is controlled and every pain quieted- whether you return to Charleston." when every unchained toul soars at

CHAPTER VIII.

"Really, my dear fellow," said Captain Trevor to his companion, when they had seated themselves, "I am glad to see you, but I have no fears of surprise. Firstly, because the loyalists have everything their own way here; secondly, because there is not an unhung whig in the whole mountain range; and thirdly, because I have already enlisted a full company of ritlemen, who will be here in a few days, with their equipments. Lastly, as our regimental chaplain says, old Maxwell A warm thrill of heart-blood at the here is confirmed in his allegiance by

"Capital, 'pon honor," replied Capfortune or rank, he was nevertheless "Mr. Rupert," said she, "I hope you one of "nature's noblemen," and whendisciplined, or a difficult order to be Each of the gentlemen bowed to the executed, the name of Foster was the

"Sot a whit of it. Ah, you are too . scrict a disciplinarian, although I hope some day to witness your capitulation. Tell me, though, have I not made good use of my time?"

surrendered?"

"There you are again. I talk about a lady and you, looking grave, lecture me on duty. Charging front, I speak of Mars, and you, breaking column to

the rear, talk about Venus.' "Seriously, then, are you certain that all is right in this region?" "I have not the least doubt of the loyalty and true allegrance of every

"What class of men are your recruits?"

"Why-ahem-they are good men.

that is, he has been in this neighbor-"Know Danforth? Why-why yes, leader?" tain Foster, "but do you know their

"So I am happy to learn," said Cappany has now gone to Augusta to get serve Ming George, and not the Con-tinental Congress. Why, a full com-"that the ridemen volunteered to well, with a sort of convulsive effer

forwarded to Colonel Tarlion." slight mistake in the information myself. As to the riflemen, there was king has not a more loyal subject than "I assure you, gentlemen, that the

pled, in low, husky tones: and it was several minutes ere he reing from a dream. His lips quivered, ed inquiringly around, like one awak-Mr. Maxwell, doubly accused, look-

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"Why, gone to Augusta for their hood some time, and I have ever found arms and equipments."

"With your order?" "Yes-that is, I gave the order to

"And who is he?" "An honest Yankee, who enlisted the men, and hopes to receive the warrant of quar ermaster sergeant in

"Was he recommended to you? "Yes.

"And by whom?" "Mr. Maxwell."

Foster arose, and paced the floor two or three times with hurried stens. Then, stopping before his comrade, question, he said:

"Trevor, you are the son of a nobleman, who purchased your commission, same impulses which led you to fight while I am of humble birth. There is a wide social gulf betwen us. over which your rank can carry you in

plunge me to the depths of disgrace. But duty, stern duty, knows no will. It is with all respect, then, that I inform you that after your departure,

"Ah, I am superseded, then, by a-" Trevor," interrupted Foster, his eyes flashing fire. "Like yourself I hold and soon the spacious stables of the his majesty's commission, and meet rior if you insist upon it, for I have written orders for you to return at house. once to headquarters, or serve as my

subordinate." Trevor made no immediate reply. but brought his hand down upon the table with a crash that made it shake. Then, springing to his feet, and attempting to smile, he said, in a hypo-

"Foster, excuse me, for I had no you spare me the mortification of being superseded, at the very moment

"Nay," replied the frank soldier, "had you not have interrupted me, I should have gone on to inform you that these orders were entrusted to scout," and Rupert, after a multitude my care, with full discretionary powof vague conjectures respecting Auto- ers. It remains with you to decide whether you will permit me to push Sweet sleep! When every passion my inquiries as your subordinate, or

"Generous fellow!" exclaimed Trevor, "and when I am master here. bang me if I don't keep a chamber

vacant for you the year round." "No, no, Trevor, do not speak of reward. I am only actuated by a desire to serve his majesty faithfully, and to treat you with that respect to which your social position entitles you. Now we understand our positions, let us tose no time in ascertaining exactly how maters stand. Suppose we go

down stairs and see Mr. Maxwell?" Trevor assented, and the two descended the staircase to the hall, where they met Ca o.

"Where is your master?" inquired Captain Trever.

they found their host seated before bitter recollections made me forget a recapitulation of all that had passed. communications to make after breaka large table, which was nearly cov- myself just now." by a genealogical chart. Excuse me," said he, rising, "but mit me to repeats my regrets. And conclusion exclaimed: Cap all Foster brought me a package now, Captain Trevor, what say you

See," and as he spoke he pointed to horses before I retire. the chart, "the Maxwell blood has "Willingly. Especially as Miss flowed in the veins of the Bruces, the Maxwell does not honor us with her Douglases, and Scotland's noblest presence this evening." It would have been a sad bar-

accused you of favoring the designs cornet of dragoons, of the trailors." 'Yes, indeed," continued Captain

him honest, true and loyal to the heart. "I am glad to hear it," responded

Captain Foster, 'and I hope soon to see him here, with his men arrayed beneath the folds of the red cross flag. In these days, however, much caution is necessary.

"Yes, sir, but you perhaps fergot that I am a Maxwell-a Maxwell of Eagle's Crag!" And as he spoke, the old man drew himself up with the feudal pride of his native hills, looking defiance at the young man who had presumed to call his loyalty in

"Excuse me, Mr. Maxwell," coelly remarked Captain Foster, "but the against the crown at Culloden, might prompt you to forget your loyalty now.

Elated by the hope of recovering Eagle's Crag. Mr. gotten upon what dangerous ground he stood, until the young soldier's remark brought a dark cloud of remembrance across his bow. The past, with his deadly struggle against England. this neighborhood. So precise was its rose in fearful shape before him, and though he did not speak. For some "You returned with Miss Maxwell, the instrument of warning. Earnestly moments he evidently hesitated as to Have you seen her?" "Spare yourself the word, Cap ain rankling bit erness welled forth from mean?" his heart, and with desperate energy, like a wolf at bay, he said:

It was not the first line that Cap- | "Can it be possible," exclaimed Tre. tain Foster had felt the necessity of vor, "that I have been made a fool of, was a man of quick decision and of girl?" strong resolution, ever able to control his feelings.

"Mr Maxwell" he said. stood on the brink of an abyss, and | vicinity, sergeant?" turning, he began to pa e the room in a paraxysm of rage. There was a deep who rides the frongray." frown on his brow, his eyes flashed as | "And this fellow Danforth?" if under the influence of strong passions, and he looked wildly about, as colors." If in quest of some one on whom to | "The hypocritical, snutling Yankee

wreck his vengeance. Trever, who had remained a passive | well-pole," witness of the scene. "Both of you | "Not if he comes back with a hun gentlemen are loyal subjects of his dred well-armed loyalists," archiving others were rubbing their steel sword majes y. Do not, I entreat you, per- plied Foster. "But, pleasantry uside, scubbards, or polishing brass equip

fere with the good cause." heated iron. Could it be possible that Mr. Maxwell. So, sergeant, you will dress parado. his past coquetry with the revolution- keep a good watch, and if any latists had been susperted? He had flat- suspicious is seen or heard, call me a tered himself that he had escaped de- once. Good night." tection by ex raordinary 'precaution. "Good night, sir." replied the leaked out. At any rate, he felt that to the house. They found their he had a bold game to play-little to alterns enjoying a bowl of punch lose, everything to gain. So with a on inquiring for Mr. Maxwell, we strong effort, he mastered his feelings, formed that he had pleaded a biand held out his hand to Captain Fos. ache and retired. After taking a gives ter, saying:

"Excuse me, captain, for apparent | by Cato, who made many apologica ! rudeness, and that while you are my rause a separate room could not. guest. But any allusion to the ill-fated crowded as the house was, be given to Scotch rebellion at once irritates me | Captain Foster. beyond bounds. It was the great mis. That officer, however, much prefer-"In the library, sir, will you wal? take of my life, a n. Take only to be red to share the apartment of lib Tiever, in a sanguine tone. "I hope, corrected by long years of loyal aile- comrade, and they were no sooner six that you are somewhat cooler this As the two officers entered the room, glance, and I deeply regret that its left alone together, than he desired morning for we have some important

and I have not left it for an instant. take a look at my men and at their mystified. This old Maxwell is a cun-

"Is she not in the parlor?" asked tain Trevor, "there are those that have one but the two lieutenants and the love a-

"Aurora's ride must have fatigued Foster, "some one wrote Colonel Tarl- her," continued Mr. Maxwell, "but a rife-battalion, and that you had the breakfast table to-morrow. Now, written to Congress for a foreign dril, I while you gentlemen-captains are making your tour of inspection 1 will

remain with these gentlemen, whose acquaintance I have not had oppor

tunity to cultivate." As he seated himself, the two captains went out, and after obtaining information of the sentry at the door, they went to a large barn, where his men were quartered. A sergeant's guard was posted, and Captain Foster, after ascertaining that the men were sleeping comfortably on the haymows, cautioned him to keep a strict watch.

"Never fear, sir," replied the se geant, raising his hand to his cap, days, and Sergeant Halbert has put

"What?" exclaimed Captain Trevof. "Sergeant Halbert suspect danger and not inform me? I must see him in the morning."

"How about this? Are you afraid?" "Do you think I am, sir?"

rather staggered his commander. "No, no," he replied. "I have seen had any suspicions, why not communi-

"You knew them, sir!"

'Not I. str."

woods, I followed as a rear guard," me?

"Patience, dear Trevor," said Cap- breeze, tain Foster. "Let the sergeant tell his At length she had reached her home, own stery in his own way. He had but knowing its occupation by the good reasons, I dare say, as we shall dragoons, she left the road, and drew find out."

bert proceeded:

a troop horse in the stable. An iron- she passed through the garden into gray, long mane, high action. Now the basement of the house. Deposit-I had seen that horse at the battle of log her saddle in its place, she ascend-Conden. Make eath on't. But at ed a side staircase, and was once more night he vanished. That Danforth in her own room. preleaded to be a fool, but tried to "Safe, safe! Thank God," she expump me. Didn't make much. Nig- claimed in an exul ant tone, as she ger, too, goes and hoots like an owl. threw off the scarf which had been Some one answers him. Things look- tied around her neck. Then, after sho ed bad. Saw the captain going right had paced to and fro for a few min-Into the place where I think the rebels | utes, her strength began to fail, Lockare, and didn't want to see him picked faz the door with nervous haste, she

fron-gray! ment, and was about to speak, but moulded statue,

feeling fully secure. I did ride out and so soothing the calm beauty of with her, and (as Halbert has stated) the starry heavens. Soon came the we accidentally met a young man in guard to relieve the sentinel at the the rejet uniform. He was armed, I door, and she heard the sergeant inwas I ness had I attempted to capture him, "Nothing suspicious?"
but I was so bewildered that I did not "Nothing All's well," replied that for an instant think that I had seen tired soldier. And as the guard march.

"I mean that when she saw the red- battling for it. Then, retiring to rest, coats, she turned rein, and set off she endeavored to sleep, but her "Whatever may be the history of at a center, her plume a dancing like thoughts were with Rupert," and they "Stronghold" were filled with their you as an equal. Nay I am your supe- my loyalty, young man, you will please a brigadler general's, and her scarf were disturbed by that' melancholy emember that I am in my own waving like a flag She may have come presentiment of danger which often back, her horse basn't."

> calmines but, luckly for hint, he by an apparently unsophisticated COMPACT OF THE CONQUERORS. who was not in his heart sorry, so with an inspiring, elastic atmosphere, overbearing had been his comrade. So peculiar to southern climes, No

Some of the details he cross-question- fact.

"Well, Trevor, must say that I am king's service ning Scotchman, depend upon it, who will only wants to be on the strongest side. stable and see," said the captain. Receiving you with apparent kindness, "And yet, Mr. Maxwell," said Capon entering the parlor, they found no undoubtedly a rascal, and your lady-

"Don't interrupt me, but tell me

"Because, if you wish to take pos session here, I will soon trot off the old fellow. Such estates as this should pelong to royalists of tried principles, ard besides, your resignation will advauce me a step. Think of it, and now, as I am somewhat sleepy, good night."

Captain Trevor did ponder over

what had been suggested, for his heart was already occupied with thoughts of Aurora. Marriage to one, who, like himself, had drained the cup of life to the very dregs, was but one cannot be too careful in these a lottery, after all, for, of the fair sex who had awakened his early affections, few pleasing traces remained. One has fascinated bim with her voice, until he acidentally caught her in a passion with her waiting-maid; another, whose dove-like eyes had a "Present, sir." said the gruff ser- bewitching expression, proved destigeant, who had been sitting with the tute of roul; a literary belle was too gifted to have a heart; and so with all his ideal ideal. But now, that he had been somewhat faseinated, an op-The bravery of the sergeant was so portunity presented itself of wedding well known, that this simple question one unsophisticated in the wiles of the world, and above all, who had a home with all desirable means. True, his you too often in a charge to entertain father was a nobleman, with a princeany such thought. But if you have ly domain, but he was a younger son, so that his chances of inheritance were triffing. "Deckledly," he sollloquized, "I will get l'oster to pack off "I knew them? You are dreaming, the old man, and marry the daughter." Slumber had scarcely scaled the un-principled cap ain's thoughts, when "Well, then, speak out. Begin at the Aurora approached the "Stronghold," top of your roster and go down, for I having ridden to Danforth's house and see that Captain Foster is all impatiback. Her horse needed not the touch of a whip, so gallantly did he gallop "Beg pardon, sir. Perhaps I did along, stimulated by an occasional wrong, but things didn't please me. caress on the nock, or an encouraging So to-day, when you rode into the word. Neither did the fair esquestiran appear jaded wtn ner exertions, And what business had you to follow so congenial to her energetic, dauntless character, and the plume of her hat waved proudly in the midnight

rein at a small enclosure behind the The young nobleman bit his Up, but stable. Springing to the ground, she bowed in token of assent, and Hal- soon removed the saddle and bridle. turned her horse in through the gate, "When we came here, sir, there was and then, shouldering the equipments.

Followed at a distance, and burst into a flood of tears and threw herself upon her bed. The excitement "What a fool I am!" exclaimed Tre- had passed away, and with it the strength that had nerved her to the "Well, sir, I saw you with one of tast . A few hysterical bursts of tears, Kalb's aids, who rode that identical and then she lay senseless, her eyes closed, and her features locked in a Captain Foster started in astonish rigid repose, like some classically

"That's not all, sir," said Halbert, only Father that he had made her the noble youth who was so gallantly

CHAPTER IX The morning came in radiantly. It "It really seems so," replied Foster, was one of those clear sunny days, sudden gusts of air disturbed the the troubled man, who saw that he Do you think there is any force in this calm, but at times a balmy breeze toyed with the foilage, or agitated the "Yes, sir, under that aid-de-camp few fleecy clouds that lanquidly floated in the blue expanse above. The birds sang gaily, too, but the sun had "Think he's a rebel, sir, under false not appeared above the horizon ere their notes were drowned by the waking peals of the dragoons' bugle, echorascal," interrup ed Trevor, I should ing far and wide in martial melody. "Excuse me," remarked Captain like to see him strung up at yonder. The first strains had not died away, before the troopers were astir, some rubbing down their horses, mit your private difficulties to inter matters have a somewhat serious ments. At last everything satisfied aspect. It is getting late, and I am the critical eye of their orderly, and This remark fell hissing upon Mr. not prepared to act without endea or the dragoons went forward on the Maxwell's very soul, like water upon ing to obtain some explanation from lawn before the "Stronghold," for

> Captain Foster was no laggard, and as he left his chamber he awake Trevor, saying:

> care. There is no reason why you 60 not occupy these quarters as master within a week, if you manage aright. So lay your plans with care, while I put my men through a few move-The advice and the opportunity

will not be lost," said Trever to him-

if what you have to may relates to the

This causal remark broke over Mr. he has kept up his intrigues with the Maxwell's soul like a sea of trouble, rebels, and I half suspect that he is easting him to and fin a - helpless sinister for me to have lived and died her uncle, who left the library with a willing tool to some smart contihis guests, and crossed the hall. But nental officer; your Yankee friend is attempted to obtain admission into the room of his nicee, and a visit to

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"No indeed. Trevor, but is it not to ton that you had spoken of organizing she will probably be bright enough at breeze, as if with emotions of gladness. viction that Aurora had come hither Floating masses of brilliant clouds to see him. He would have given his you what Capua was to the great sailed about the sky, their semi-trans. commission for his arms, and a certainty that there would be no inter-

man. Why, it is not a week since arrived, and I have already enlisted a ompany, as I told you before."

That is, I have not seen them. but-"

"Yo' seen them, and where are

Trevor, let us return." Ere Rupert could recover from his

"S ronghold," and slackened their pace as they ascended a hill, when he

"Captain Trevor!" "I trust that your ride has been an

"Excuse me, also, if I suggest to Miss Maxwell that when she has a will not use the word rebel, it is rather an assumption of power to compel one "You must admit," said she, with of his majesty's officers to act as a

the shrill notes of a trumpet from man eastle in the south of England. the "Stronghold." Listening, he ex- the royal forces."

It was a troop of English dragoons,

"Your servant," replied the cap-Gen. Tarlton ordered me to report Important intelligence was received at to you, sir, and inform you that you headquarters concerning the rebels in tion of rebels, which he has learned character, that Colonel Tarlton his lips twitched conculsively, alhas formed in this vicinity. Mr. Max- thought you might be imposed upon, well has kindly offered us quarters, and has sent me-"

The troop was brought into column. horses, while their tired riders were enjoying the contents of a large tub. It was apparently filled with milk, but one of the troopers declared, with an oath, that the cow which gave that milk must have been fed on brandy-

PLOT-COMPLOT AND COUNTER-PLOT.

"Yes indeed," earnes ly responded

"How shall I know? Has the lady

"That is the fact," replied Mr. Max-"And that?" asked Captain Foster.

us all on our guard."

cate them?"

ent to learn."

"None, sir."

vor. "Go on."

Trevor interrupted him, saying, in an An hour passed away, ere the insensatile distributions:

An hour passed away, ere the insensatile girl recovered her consciousness, "Wait a moment. I may have been Starting to her feet, as if awakening made a fool of, but as God is my from some terrible dream, she could judge, there has been no connivance not at first collect her senses. But at treason on my part. Rewitched by a seat at the open window soon the beauty of this Miss Maxwell, and brought relief, so calm was the night.

him before. Neither did I recall this ed away. Aurora, sinking on her honest fellow's discovery of his horse knees, poured forth her soul in prayon the evening of our arrival here." er. Sincerely did she thank her heav-

"Do not speak to me sir," exclaimed. "Now let us see what is to be done,

but perhaps, after all, some hing had geant, and the two officers returned of wine, they went up stairs, each

"Sor far as I am concerned, sir, per- ed blin on rather minutely, and at the coutaining this valuable document, to a short tour of inspection? I always convinced you have been somewhat

> "Nav. Foster" frankly, do you love her?"